

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

§ 103 Rejection

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,658,590 B1 (Sicola et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,898,730 B1 (Hanan). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Sicola et al. patent does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) against the subject application. 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) provides that:

(c) Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Application No. 10/035,660 (the subject application) and U.S. Patent No. 6,658,590 B1 (Sicola et al.) were, at the time the invention of the subject application was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, Compaq Computer Corporation.

Accordingly, Sicola et al. does not qualify as prior art under § 103(a) against the subject application.

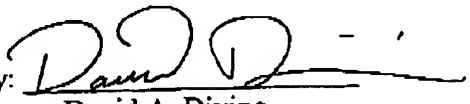
Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections and an early notice of allowance.

If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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